



SOUTH NORFOLK COMMUNITY HONORED WITH AWARD

The South Norfolk Community was recently honored at the ForKids 7th Annual Phoenix Awards, held at the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Norfolk.

The community was recognized as the *2017 Children's Champion* for embracing ForKids, and their new Center for Children and Families, to be built on Poindexter Street in South Norfolk. The facility will be the new regional family shelter and education center, and is expected to be completed by 2019.



(Left to right) ForKids CEO, Thaler McCormick; ForKids Chairman of the Board, Rick Clarke; Chesapeake Mayor, Rick West; Chesapeake City Manager, James Baker; and Steve Best, CEO of Southeast Virginia Community Foundation.

The Community worked tirelessly to gain City Council approval for the sale of land to ForKids. Because of their vision and courageous leadership, tens of thousands of children throughout Hampton Roads will receive the help they need and a chance to succeed.

Also honored at the ceremony, were two former clients who have grown and rebuilt themselves. As in years past, they were chosen based on their remarkable tenacity and courage, having overcome significant personal challenges as they broke the cycle of poverty and homelessness. This year's honorees were Michael Lenihan, and Justice Anthony Bullock.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

PROJECT REACHES MILESTONE

The Portsmouth Boulevard Widening Project has reached a significant milestone on its way to a fall 2018 completion. A new traffic pattern is in place to allow for construction within the median. The project is widening Portsmouth Boulevard between I-664 and the city line from two to four lanes of traffic, and adding a multi-purpose lane and sidewalk. The City of Suffolk is continuing the project on Nansemond Parkway.



Jolliff Road intersection December 2017.



Portsmouth Boulevard westbound December 2017.

SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT READY

Each year, the Public Works Department prepares for potential winter weather long before the first snow flake falls.

In early November, they held their annual Snow Equipment Inspection Day, during which they take inventory of all equipment and supplies, train staff and go over the emergency response plan. This year, the Public Works winter weather response fleet is made up of 38 trucks equipped with plows and salt/sand spreaders plus other equipment as needed.

The road treatment strategy varies depending on the storm event. Brine solution is a pro-active pre-treatment best used when the weather event starts with dry snow. The traditional salt/sand combination is the primary resource to treat roadways. The salt aids in melting snow and ice and the sand provides traction. A stock pile of 2,500 tons of salt/sand mixture and three 10,000 gallon tanks of brine solution will be available.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEPARTMENT UPGRADES EQUIPMENT IN THE NEW YEAR

The Chesapeake Fire Department upgraded their Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to the new MSA G1 model on January 3. The new units replaced the ten-year old models, and bring the department into compliance with the 2018 National Fire Protection Association's standard for respiratory protection.

The MSA G1 is packed with new advancements and technologies, such as a built-in thermal imaging camera. This gives firefighters the ability to see through smoke-filled environments when locating fires or searching for victims.

Each SCBA mask comes with a heads-up display that provides the firefighter with vital information such as air supply, battery life and an evacuate alarm. LED lights located on the units, provide firefighters with 360 degrees of visibility, which is critical when crews are searching for a missing or a downed firefighter. These LED lights change color to indicate the level of air supply or when there is an emergency with the firefighter.

The MSA G1 provides firefighters with 45 minutes of air, and will sound an alarm when the air supply falls below 35 percent. Firefighters are now able to connect their units to share air in emergency situations. With the new model, incident commanders will be able to remotely monitor the air supply of every firefighter on scene from the command post. They will have the capability to send emergency evacuation signals via the SCBA alarms, to order firefighters out the building when conditions become too hazardous.

This critical upgrade was made possible by funding allocated to the department in the FY2016-17 Capital Improvement Budget.



DEVELOPMENT AND PERMITS NEWS

Chesapeake Public Safety Operations Building: A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (CO) was issued to the Chesapeake Public Safety Operations Building located at 2130 Military Highway. While there are still outstanding issues, the Temporary CO allows occupancy of the 2nd floor to the Emergency Management and Fire Training Division personnel.

PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM NEWS

PARK PAVING PROJECTS COMPLETED

Paving is complete for the parking lots leading to the boat ramps. At Great Bridge Lock Park, directional parking for boaters has been realigned for ease of ingress and egress. Additional parking areas by the Great Bridge Lock were also paved leading to the boat ramp and kayak launch area. New pavement striping and signage are in process. The parking lot at Deep Creek Lock Park was re-paved and re-striped.



Deep Creek Lock Park parking lot.



Great Bridge Lock Park paving in process in the boating and kayak launch area of the parking lot.

PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM NEW PARK SIGNAGE

The department has added and replaced many park signs throughout the City within the past 6 months. The signs are now standard monument-shaped, which are easily recognizable to citizens.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

COMPANY RELOCATES TO CHESAPEAKE

RFK Solutionz Corporation celebrated their recent re-location to Chesapeake with a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Reopening Celebration on Friday, November 17.

The SWaM certified company provides information technology services and general contracting services for federal government, state and commercial businesses throughout Hampton Roads and beyond.

Owners Kimberly K. Frost, President & CEO, and her husband, Ricardo A. Frost, Vice President, are both retired United States Navy service-connected disabled veterans . Combined they possess more than 40 years of Information Technology experience and more than 15 years of General Contracting experience.

The City partnered with RFK Solutionz to assist in the growth of their company by helping them to secure real estate in the growing Western Branch Business District. The newly renovated training facility is located off Western Branch Boulevard and is approximately 13,000 square feet. The total capital investment is more than \$1.2 million with 11 new jobs.



LIBRARY NEWS

INDIAN RIVER LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS

The Indian River Library recently underwent minor renovations including new carpet, fresh paint and a new layout. The library mobile edition was on site to provide limited services during the renovations.



LIBRARY CLASSES AND EVENTS SERVE CUSTOMERS OF ALL AGES

The Chesapeake Public Library offers a variety of classes that serve citizens of all ages. Classes include Early Literacy, Technology and Innovation, History and Genealogy and many more. For more details or to register for a class visit the [library calendar page](#).

REGISTER NOW FOR CHESAPEAKE ALERT



Emergency alerts, such as severe weather warnings, are delivered automatically to those in the affected areas, and the City can also provide timely warnings for things like hazardous materials events and other public safety concerns.

To register for Chesapeake Alert, visit www.CityOfChesapeake.net/ChesapeakeAlert, or call the City's Customer Contact Center at 382-CITY weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming City Closings

Lee-Jackson Day

All City offices, courts and libraries will be closed on Friday, January 12.

Recreation centers will be open from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Visitors Center, located at 1224 Progressive Drive, will remain open.

There will be no changes to trash and recycling collection schedules.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

All City offices, courts, libraries and community centers will be closed on Monday, January 15.

The Visitors Center, located at 1224 Progressive Drive, will remain open.

There will be no changes to trash and recycling collection schedules.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Planning Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 10
7:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber
City Hall
306 Cedar Road

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 11
5:00 p.m.
City Hall Planning Department
306 Cedar Road

Mayor's Commission on Veteran's Affairs Meeting
Thursday, January 18 - 7:00 p.m.
Chesapeake City Hall
4th Floor Training Room
298 Cedar Road

2018 Girl Scout Cookie Classic
Saturday, January 20
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Dismal Swamp Canal Trail
1200 Dismal Swamp Canal Trail

Project: Find (Father In New Directions)
Thursday January 25
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Chesapeake Human Services
100 Outlaw Street

Board of Zoning Appeals Public Hearing
Thursday, January 25
6:30 p.m.
City Council Chamber - City Hall
306 Cedar Road